

# A MEMORABLE CELEBRATION

While you and your wedding party are at the church or park finishing up the last few photographs, your guests will be arriving at the reception. Get the party started and keep your guests entertained until you arrive. Add some flair to your reception with these fun ideas!

## TABLE ENTERTAINMENT

Have party favors for guests to enjoy. Consider using thick paper tablecloths for guests to draw masterpieces or play games on. List an email address for guests to email their wedding photos to, or ask your guests to include your #wedding on their Instagram posts. Give each table a task list of photos to take. (A happy child, a person touched by a great speech, etc...) Place small cards along the tables to write marriage advice or tips. Lay out Mad-Libs or other word games, cards, or trivia to entertain and spark conversation between guests.

## TAKE CARE OF THE KIDS

Fill a bag or box with treats, toys, stickers, glow sticks, paper, crayons, or small games. If you have a seating chart for your guests, you can have the bags or boxes ready on the appropriate tables. Consider hiring a balloon artist to entertain the kids. This allows the parents to relax and enjoy other adults that they have not seen for years. Another option is to hire a baby-sitter or to appoint a couple of your teenage relatives to help supervise the kids.

## LET THEM EAT

If you had a late afternoon or early evening ceremony, chances are your guests are famished. Serve appetizers, kids as well as adults will appreciate it. If you will be a while, you may want to let them begin the buffet or dinner. You and your wedding party can make your grand entrance later. If you have a long reception, offer late night snacks such as pizza or hardy appetizers.

## SATISFY THEIR THIRST

Decide if you want a full bar, house wine and/or beer for your guests. You could serve a signature drink or one that matches your theme, maybe margaritas. An espresso bar will warm your guests on a cool day and give them a boost of energy for the dance floor! The kids at your reception might enjoy chocolate milk, blended fruit smoothies, juices, and kiddy cocktails.

## LOCAL FLAVOR

Use local products everywhere you can. Think about the places and things you enjoy as a couple in your community. You could serve your guests your favorite local micro-brew beers, apples, pies, pastries, and chocolates. Shop your farmers market for ideas.

## DELICIOUS DESSERT OPTIONS

Instead of cake, consider serving cheesecake or have a buffet of desserts for your guests to enjoy. Offer a chocolate fountain with fruits, marshmallows and pretzels. Rent a snow cone machine or a cotton candy maker for the day. Set a table with the couple's favorite candies and popcorn, include gift bags with a special note.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Not all guests dance. To prevent them from becoming wallflowers, consider some alternative entertainment options. Book professional entertainers such as singers or dancers to perform during cocktail hour. Other ideas may include a magician, hypnotist, comedian, or a balloon artist. Set up a game table with options for all ages. Lawn games are fun if it works for your wedding, or you could spray paint a Twister board on the grass. Imagine a fireworks show to end your evening with a bang!